(a) to (c) Inview of the recent policy changes in the hydrocarbon sector, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process. ONGC has informed that their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formationof the said Non-Government joint venture, as of now.

Allotment of dealership under reservation category in Gujarat

2744. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is reservation for SC/ST and unemployed youth in the allotment of LPG agencies and retail outlets of public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of gas agencies and retail outlets allotted in Gujarat under reservation category during the last three years, year-wise and agency/outlet-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have provided the reservation of 25% in favour of SC/ST category in the locations included in the marketing plans approved prior to dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). However, there was no reservation for unemployed youth category.

(c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 12 Retail Outlets (ROs) and 24 LPG distributorships in the State of Gujarat under SC/ST category during the last three years.